

6. THE PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *LOCUSTELLA
CERTHIOLA RUBESCENS* BLYTH FROM
SOUTH INDIA

While collecting birds with mist-nets from reed beds (*Phragmites karka* Trin.) growing by the side of paddy-field dykes in Rajapuram Kayal (= Lake), c. 10 km. east of Alleppey, Kuttanad, Alleppey District, Kerala, a female Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler was netted on 10 May 1963. The specimen agrees with topotypical specimens of *Locustella certhiola rubescens* in the Zoological Survey of India collected from Calcutta. Its distribution according to Ripley's SYNOPSIS is: 'A wintering form in Burma, East Pakistan, and India in the Calcutta region, Assam (Khasia Hills?), Andaman Is. and Ceylon.'

Locustella certhiola has not been reported from Ceylon since Legge saw several examples and collected two in the Mutturajawella Swamps in February 1877 (G. M. Henry 1955). From the Andaman and Nicobar Islands we have only a sight record and a specimen collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott and Mr. C. B. Kloss (Richmond 1903). The author found the species to be rather common in Salt Lake, Calcutta, from January to March.

Its occurrence in Kerala, S. India, is a new record for the distribution of the species and race. Although Stuart Baker (F.B.I., Birds 2 : 400) includes Orissa in the range of its distribution we are unable to trace his source of information.

The measurements of the specimen are : wing 67 mm. ; tail 56 mm. ; tarsus 20 mm. Plumage : fresh ; two outermost rectrices of only the right side growing, evidently being replaced after accidental loss.

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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE,
DEVAGIRI,
CALICUT, KERALA,
February 4, 1965.

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7. WHITEHEADED YELLOW-WAGTAIL [*MOTACILLA
FLAVA LEUCOCEPHALA* (PRZEVALSKI)]
NEAR DELHI

On 11 April 1965 there was large-scale movement of yellow wagtails alongside the Agra Canal, which takes off from Okhla near Delhi. Most of them were Sykes's Yellow Wagtails (*Motacilla flava beema*), but